

The dangers of media consolidation are clear, yet the government seems to continue to relax control over the public airwaves. The recent report that Sinclair Broadcasting plans to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" just days before the election is a clear example of these dangers. For any group to have access to airwaves to present a biased, unsubstantiated attack on a candidate for public office is unacceptable. Especially when the broadcaster, without having to demonstrate to anyone the accuracy of the content beforehand, can call the program a "documentary".

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their presentation of fiction as though it is fact, particularly at such a point in a public election, is unconscionable and clearly shows why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. This is a time for the FCC to demonstrate it is not simply a distributor of broadcast frequencies to the highest bidder. Use your authority to stop Sinclair now, and then tighten your rules on the breadth of consolidation of ownership in the future. Thank you.